

# NEWS RELEASE



**STATE OF ALABAMA**  
**Department of Industrial**  
**Relations**  
**News For Immediate Release**  
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## **Deadline Extended for Filing Disaster Unemployment Assistance**

MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA, September 22, 2005.....Unemployed workers in 10 counties declared disaster areas as a direct result of Hurricane Katrina now have until November 30, 2005 to file for benefits under the Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA) program, according to Phyllis Kennedy, director of the Alabama Department of Industrial Relations.

“DUA benefits are available to persons who work or live in those counties and became unemployed, or could not engage in their customary self-employment, as a direct result of Hurricane Katrina,” says Kennedy.

The declared disaster counties for DUA are: Baldwin, Choctaw, Clarke, Greene, Hale, Mobile, Pickens, Sumter, Tuscaloosa, and Washington.

Claims for state unemployment compensation (UC) benefits may be filed by calling 1-866-234-5382. Generally, persons who are eligible for regular unemployment compensation benefits are not eligible for DUA, but the claimant may qualify for DUA if state unemployment compensation benefits are exhausted. Self-employed individuals will be requested to provide a copy of their 2004 income tax records. Louisiana and Mississippi Hurricane Katrina evacuees residing in Alabama may also use this same number to file a claim against wages from their state. Alabama will send that information electronically back to the state of origin.

DUA services are administered by the Alabama Department of Industrial Relations through its network of Unemployment Compensation Call Centers across the state. Funding is provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency. More information on DUA is available at: <http://dir.alabama.gov/>.

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Industrial Relations is an umbrella organization of State government which administers: the State Employment Service, Unemployment Insurance, Workers' Compensation, and Labor Market Information. Smaller programs also administered include Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation, Mine Safety and Inspection, and Surface Mining of Non-Fuel Minerals. For more information on DIR visit the Web site: <http://dir.alabama.gov/>.